

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 178618 TOSEC 080124

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 178618 TOSEC 080124

FOLLOWING REPEAT MEXICO 6670 ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN 29 JUL

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 6670

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA DEFENDS MEXICO'S VIGOROUS
THIRD WORLD POSITIONS

1. RABASA, WHO LEFT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S 14-COUNTRY
TOUR TO GO TO SAN JOSE RIO TREATY CONFERENCE, TOUCHED BASE
IN MEXICO OVER WEEKEND BEFORE REJOINING PRESIDENTIAL PARTY.
(SOME PRESS ACCOUNTS, BUT NOT SECRETARIAT SOURCES, SAID
RABASA WOULD GO TO MOSCOW TO SIGN COMECON AGREEMENT BEFORE
JOINING ECHEVERRIA). DURING HIS BRIEF VISIT HOME, RABASA
TALKED WITH EXCELSIOR REPORTER WHO RAISED SEVERAL ISSUES
OF INTEREST.

2. ASKED WHETHER MEXICO WAS "UNDER PRESSURE FROM GREAT
POWERS" BECAUSE OF THIRD WORLD INITIATIVE, RABASA REPLIED
IN NEGATIVE. SHOULD SUCH PRESSURES BE EXERTED, HE SAID,
THEY WOULD BE "ENERGETICALLY REJECTED". DID THIS MEAN,
REPORTER ASKED, THAT GREAT POWERS HAD ABANDONED "COERCIVE
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PAGE 02 STATE 178618 TOSEC 080124

ACTIONS"? NO, RABASA SAID, BUT PRESSURE FORMERLY EXERTED

THROUGH ARMED INTERVENTION IS NOW APPLIED THROUGH ECONOMIC MEASURES. HENCE THE NEED FOR THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES ERCERDSL.

3. IS MEXICO TRYING TO LEAD IN LATIN AMERICA? NO, RABASA SAID; MEXICO HAS NEVER SOUGHT A LEADERSHIP ROLE, THOUGH "SOME COUNTRIES BELIEVE OR WANT TO BE LEADER."

4. DOES MEXICO'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE SQUARE WITH ITS NATIONAL REALITY? (THIS PENETRATING QUESTION, SELDOM PUBLICLY RAISED THOUGH FREQUENTLY PRIVATELY DISCUSSED IN MEXICO, TROUBLED RABASA ACCORDING TO THE REPORTER.) "ABROAD, WE HAVE NEVER CONCEALED THAT WE ARE A COUNTRY OF GREAT PRIVATIONS AND THAT UNFORTUNATELY THERE ARE MANY UNSATISFIED NEEDS, IN THE FIELDS OF PUBLIC HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND PRODUCTION. NOR HAVE WE DENIED THAT THERE ARE LARGE NUCLEI OF DISADVANTAGED (WITHIN MEXICAN SOCIETY). NONTHLESS, THE GOVERNMENT IS MAKING CONSTANT EFFORTS TO (AMERLIORATE) HEALTH CONDITIONS, (REDUCE), IGNORANCE AND LACK OF DEVELOPMENT ...IN HIS MANY TALKS WITH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. ...PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAS ALWAYS SPOKEN CLEARLY ABOUT THE SITUATION IN MEXICO."

5. DIPLOMATICALLY SPEAKING, ISN'T IT DANGEROUS FOR MEXICO (TO FOLLOW) SUCH AGGRESSIVELY INDEPENDENT POLICIES, HAVING AS A NEIGHBOR THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL COUNTRY? RABASA: "IT'S WORTH RUNNING THE RISK, SO LONG AS MEXICO'S FOREIGN POLICY MEANS A REAFFIRMATION OF NATIONAL AUTONOMY."

6. RABASA FURTHER COMMENTED THAT MEXICO(AND, OBVIOUSLY, THE THIRD WORLD) HAS THE RIGHT TO FIX PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS. HIS RESPONSE TO A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE GREAT POWERS DO NOT HAVE A RIGHT TO "GIVE CREDIT, BUY OR NOT BUY, AID OR NOT AID" LDC'S WAS THAT "WE LIVE IN AN INTERDEPENDENT WORLD."

7. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE UN WITHOUT THE ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF THE U.S., WHICH THREATENS TO WITHHOLD IT? RABASA: " IF THE U.S. REALLY WANTS PEACE IN OUR TIME, IT CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 178618 TOSEC 080124

SHOULD CONSIDER THAT THE BEST MEANS OF ACHIEVING IT IS THROUGH--AND COMPLYING WITH THE POSTULATES OF--THE U.N."

8. COMMENT: OF SOME INTEREST IS THAT RABASA'S COMMENTS, SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVE IN TONE, ARE CONSIDERABLY LESS AGGRESSIVE THAN THOSE OF HIS UNDERSECRETARY, RUBEN GONZALEZ SOSA(WHOSE STATEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH JUST CONCLUDED CLUB OF ROME MEETING IN GUANAJUATO WILL BE SUBJECT OF

SEPTEL.) RABASA'S COMMENTS(AND REPORTER'S QUESTIONS) ALSO SEEM TO REFLECT CONSIDERATION OF POINTS MADE IN SECRETARY KISSINGER'S JULY 14 MILWAUKEE SPEECH. (EMBASSY SENT TEXT OF SPEECH TO HIM UNDER FIRST PERSON NOTE OF JULY 16; TEXT WAS PRESUMABLY TRANSMITTED TO HIM BY SECRETARIAT OR CAME TO HIS ATTENTION DURING BRIEF STOPOVER IN MEXICO CITY.) QUESTION AND ANSWER ON MEXICO'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE VS ITS NATIONAL REALITY ALSO HAVE OVERTONES OF PORTION OF AMB. MOYNIHAN'S COMMENTARY ARTICLE, WHICH HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION IN LOCAL INTELLECTUAL CIRCLES, PRESS, AND FOREIGN SECRETARIAT.
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